GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2928
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH PETROLEUM FROM IOCLA ND GAIL
RADHA MOHAN SINGH;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a): whether British Petroleum has withdrawn from the joint venture with IOCL and GAIL for setting up the world's first commercial plant for producing di- methal-ether (BME);

(b): if so, the reasons therefor;

(c): the implications involved with the withdrawal of the British Petroleum from the Joint Venture; and

(d): the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. British Petroleum (BP) has withdrawn from theproposed joint venture with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and the Indian Institute of Petroleum(IIP) for setting up of the first commercial plant for production of di-methyl-ether(DME). As advised by BP, the project does not fit in their strategic priorities.

(c) & (d): Though no capital expenditure has been incurred on the proposed project, the activities of the project have got temporary setback. However, efforts are on to identify a new partner.